

the ROADRUNNER

Nebraska ♦ Department ♦ of ♦ Roads

February/March 2015



Winter Reflections

Snow-laden evergreens frame a scenic setting at Pioneer's Park in Lincoln.

Photo by Jay Bailey

Nebraska Department of Roads

Communication Division
1500 Highway 2
PO Box 94759
Lincoln NE 68509-4759
(402)479-4512
www.roads.nebraska.gov

Governor Pete Ricketts

Highway Commission

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E.J. Militti, Jr.	Ronald Books
David Copple	Greg Wolford
James Kindig	Jerome Fagerland

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District 6Gary Thayer
District 7Kurt Vosburg
District 8Mark Kovar

EditorLinda M. Wilson
Type & LayoutDiane German

The information in this newsletter is contributed
by employees, retirees and friends of NDOR.



Construction Inspectors' Certification Program Finding Success

In an ongoing effort to fulfill the strategic goal of "Workforce Development," Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) has initiated a Construction Inspection Certification Program (CICP). The CICP program will provide NDOR with a formalized framework for equipping our construction inspectors with the essential skills necessary to perform their inspection duties successfully.

Previously, the department has successfully benefited from on-the-job-training (OJT) to equip our construction inspectors with the knowledge and experience needed to be proficient inspectors. In the past, OJT mainly consisted of shadowing an experienced inspector and learning from that. Training did not include the reasons for inspecting certain elements of the work. You knew the "what," but maybe not the "whys." Now, all this is explained thoroughly, demonstrated and evaluated. With the advancements in technology in heavy highway construction and the proliferation of federal regulations and oversight, OJT alone was not sufficient to ensure that our inspectors garnered the knowledge to be proficient. The department recognized a need to develop a formal curriculum and coursework to equip construction inspectors with the essential performance skills and the requirements to accurately record how this knowledge was gained.

Implementation Plan

Staff from Materials & Research, Human Resources and four districts came together and established a planning and implementation team for training. This team created a manual, class matrix, and implementation plan to outline disciplines and proficiencies needed to inspect a construction project. These proficiencies were further broken down into requirements for the differing levels of construction inspection personnel. Through these requirements, construction inspection personnel will gain knowledge that will assist them in performing their daily duties and further developing their careers.

Since the end of last construction season, in addition to staying busy with winter construction projects and snow removal operations, construction personnel have been working towards completing their level-specific training requirements. District construction personnel are making great progress in achieving these requirements.

Human Resources, district administration and central headquarters administration continue to meet to discuss the progress and challenges of the implementation effort. Issues are being identified and resolved consistently across every district.

If you have any questions about this program and its status, please call the Human Resources Workforce Development Team at 402-479-4870. ♦

Parks New District 5 Construction Engineer

Drew Parks has been named the new District 5 Construction Engineer in Gering for the Nebraska Department of Roads. District 5 includes Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sioux and Sheridan counties. Parks, a licensed professional engineer, succeeds Doug Hoevet, who was recently named the District 5 Engineer after Craig Lind's retirement.

Parks has worked at NDOR for eight years, his first two years as "work-study" in the Bridge Division while attending school and living in Omaha. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from UNO in 2008, Parks accepted an Engineer I position in District 2 (Omaha), worked his way to an



Drew Parks

Engineer II and eventually an Engineer III when he received his Professional Engineering License.

Throughout his six years working in Omaha, Parks performed the duties of Project Manager, Survey Crew Chief and Lead Inspector. He worked on a wide variety

of road and bridge projects that varied from complex interstate jobs with overnight schedules to river bridge construction to 10 working-day local projects. In January 2014, Parks accepted the position of Project Delivery Engineer in the Program Management Division in Lincoln and has remained there for the past year.

Parks said he has been very fortunate to build relationships with talented and supportive people across many

engineering teams, and he looks forward to joining an experienced team in the Panhandle.

"My goal is to ensure that we are collectively working towards upholding NDOR's mission and focusing on making improvements enhancing NDOR's eight strategic goals." As far as his philosophy toward management, Parks noted, "I feel that demonstrating leadership, practicing consistency and fairness, offering a personal relationship and encouraging people to find answers independently is a worthwhile approach. I believe that management is also about being open and adaptive to new situations."

Parks graduated from Benson High School in Omaha, where he was born and raised. He will be getting married to Katie Swanson in April 2015. They have a dog named "Dude" and family who live in Omaha, North Platte, Loveland, Colorado, and throughout the U.S. In his spare time, Parks enjoys traveling, training and working with his dog, playing card games, fishing, writing, and spending time with friends and family. ♦

Craig New District 6 Construction Engineer

Cameron Craig has been named the new District 6 Construction Engineer in North Platte for the Nebraska Department of Roads. District 6 includes Arthur, Blaine, Custer, Dawson, Grant, Hooker, Keith, Lincoln, Logan, McPherson and Thomas counties.

Craig, a licensed professional engineer, succeeds Noel Salac, who was recently named the Planning and Location Studies Engineer in the Planning and Project Development Division in Lincoln. Salac succeeds Jim Wilkinson, who retired after 24 years of State service.

Craig has worked at NDOR for 12 years, his first two years as "work-study" in the Planning and Project



Cameron Craig

Development Division in Lincoln. During this time, he worked in the Location Studies Section producing engineering reviews, a predecessor to the current scoping documents.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from UNL in 2005, Craig moved to District 6 in

North Platte, where he has worked for the past 10 years, first as an Engineer I/II for four years doing construction inspections, surveys and materials testing. Other responsibilities included highway design work through the Overlay Section of Roadway Design in Lincoln and assisting with maintenance winter operations in the District Operation Center.

After receiving his professional civil engineering license, Craig was promoted to Engineer III, where he continued designing projects through Roadway Design and was a project engineer for many road and capital facility construction projects in District 6. In 2011, Craig was promoted to Assistant District Construction Engineer where he continued to design highway projects, managed Capital Facilities projects and worked with the Broken Bow construction office.

Craig said he has most enjoyed the opportunity to work and learn from many people, including the great employees of NDOR and our industry partners, who have created a positive atmosphere for improvement.

Craig graduated from high school in Ogallala, where he was born and raised. He and his wife, Jayna Schaaf, enjoy visiting the National Park System, hiking and music in their spare time. They also like to spend time with family, including their nine nephews and nieces. ♦

ACI Award of Excellence to NDOR for Oxford South Bridge Project

The Oxford South Bridge Project received a 2014 Award of Excellence from the Nebraska Chapter of the American Concrete Institute (ACI) for outstanding concrete design and construction within the State of Nebraska. Mark Dietz, NDOR District 7 Project Manager, accepted the award on behalf of the department at the Nebraska Chapter ACI annual awards banquet, held on January 30 at the Nebraska Champions Club in Lincoln, Nebraska.

In this project, a new two-lane bridge was constructed approximately 82 feet east (downstream) of an existing bridge in Oxford, Nebraska. Construction of the bridge began in the fall of 2012 and was open to traffic in the fall of 2013. The bridge is 32 feet wide, 580 feet long and consists of five spans.

New Technology

The Oxford South Bridge project was noteworthy in its implementation of a new technology called 0.7-inch diameter strand. A strand is a steel cable inside a concrete girder pretensioned to a certain force to give the concrete girder/beam the extra strength and durability it needs to resist the traffic on the bridge. Traditionally, 0.5-inch diameter strands and 0.6-inch diameter strands are used which are capable of producing a force of around 40,000 pounds per strand and 44,000 pounds per strand, respectively.

For a given pretensioned force, use of larger 0.7-inch diameter strands with a force of 60,000 pounds per strand results in fewer and more efficient use of strands, longer spans and less number of girders used under a bridge which translate to cost saving. This is believed to be the first application in the United States with 0.7-inch diameter strands.

The bridge was initially designed as a reinforced concrete deck on four NU1600 (64-inch) precast, prestressed



Photo courtesy of Nebraska Chapter American Concrete Institute
Oxford Bridge Award of Excellence - (l to r) Dennis Drews (Coreslab), Mark Dietz (NDOR), Chuck Kadlecik (United Contractors, Inc.), Kelly Naslund (Paulsen, Inc.)

concrete girders spaced at 9 feet using thirty-four 0.6-inch diameter strands per girder for the 110-foot spans and forty 0.6-inch diameter strands per girder for the 140-foot span. The design was revised to four NU1350 (54-inch) girders spaced at 9 feet using twenty-four 0.7-inch diameter strands for the 110-foot spans (saving of 10 strands per girder) and twenty-eight 0.7-inch diameter strands for the 140-foot span (saving of 12 strands per girder.)

Collaborative Research

The research for the 0.7-inch diameter strands was done at the University of Nebraska with collaboration of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and NDOR.

The project was designed by NDOR's Bridge Division. The bridge contractor was United Contractors, Inc. of Johnston, Iowa. The concrete girder fabrication was done by Coreslab Structures (Omaha) Inc., of La Platte, Nebraska. The concrete supplier was Paulsen, Inc., of Cozad, Nebraska. Mark Dietze was NDOR's project manager for this project.

NDOR's District 7 Engineer is Kurt Vosburg and District 7 Construction Engineer is Brice Goebel.

For more information regarding the research contact NDOR's Materials & Research Division. The report is under: Implementation of 0.7-inch Diameter Strands in Prestressed Concrete Girders, Nebraska Department of Roads, Project Number: SPR-P1(13)M333. ♦



NDOR Transit Section Partners with NU in Statewide Transit Initiative

By Kari Ruse

Rail & Public Transportation Division

To meet the obligations set forth in state statute, the NDOR Transit Section is the pass-through agency for Federal Transit Administration and State Transportation funds. As the direct grantee for federal funds, the Transit Section is responsible for project management oversight to ensure processes are in compliance with statutory, administrative and regulatory requirements.

In December 2013, after several months of planning and strategizing, the NDOR Transit Section partnered with the University of Nebraska (NU) for an innovative, statewide project to improve public transportation in the state and increase NDOR's oversight capabilities. The project includes a number of tasks including public outreach, technology and rural transit driver training, route needs assessment research, and civil rights compliance.

In January 2014, the NDOR and University staff involved in the project met in York for an official kick-off meeting. The Nebraska Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) one of the participating organizations, welcomed the opportunity to partner with NDOR.

"Nebraska LTAP is excited to be working on another project with NDOR that is having a positive impact on Nebraska's citizens, particularly those in rural areas," said Nicole Frankl, Nebraska LTAP Director.

Statewide Transit Initiative Year One Accomplishments

Public Outreach

To raise awareness about public transportation in the state, Valerie Lefler and Bill Biven, NU staff, and Kari Ruse, NDOR Transit Manager, participated in and/or presented information at the following events in 2014:

- Federation for the Blind Annual Conference
- Nebraska Legislature's Aging Task Force Meeting and Public Hearing
- Nebraska Legislative Planning Committee
- Tribal Transportation Conference

Technology

NU technology staff developed and launched a website dedicated to public transportation in the state. The website www.nebraskatransit.com includes a transit directory with service area maps, a statewide map

with rural public transit locations and a training registration page.

With substantial input from NDOR Transit Section staff, NU also built an online portal for rural transportation providers. The portal automates the process by which rural transit systems request reimbursement with State and Federal funds for allowable expenses related to providing public transportation. The portal also serves as an asset management and data collection tool for the Transit Section.

"We love the new invoice system. It has taken something out of the dark ages and made it almost fun to use. Everything is truly user friendly and the amount of time we spend on invoices has been cut in half."

— Marilee Hyde
City of North Platte Transit Mgr.

"The new online invoice system takes less time and has excellent support staff when I'm at a loss."

— Penny Vollbracht
City of Wayne Transit Mgr.

(see **Transit** on next page)



Photo courtesy of the University of Nebraska

A number of NDOR and University staff were involved in the kick-off of a statewide transit initiative project.

First row (l to r) - Valerie Lefler, UNO; Shashank Gajjala; David Drozd, UNO ; George Gallardo, NDOR, Melanie Kiper, UNO.

Second row - Ethel Williams, UNO; Franchell Abdalla, UNO; Frank Faughn, NDOR; Jerry Deichert, UNO; Connie Trautwein, NDOR; Kari Ruse, NDOR.

Third row - Darla Morris, UNK; Bill Biven, UNL; Mick Anderson, UNK; Ryan Huff, NDOR; Dennis Holtz, UNK; Wayne Masek, NDOR; Sarah Kugler, NDOR.

Rural Transit Driver Training

To increase safety and facilitate consistency, the NDOR Transit Section developed a mandatory driver training program for rural public transit drivers across the state. The program was implemented as of January 1, 2014 with curriculum and trainers provided by the Nebraska Safety Center (NSC), University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK). In 2014, trainers from NSC provided over 600 hours of instruction to rural public transit drivers.

Rural Transit Driver Training Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2014	
Workshops	Participants
PASS	372
Defensive Driving	333
First Aid/CPR/AED	40
Transporting Children	22
Difficult Passengers	38
Distracted Driving	39
Evacuation Procedures	24
Emergency Procedures	27
Total	895

"The Nebraska Safety Center at UNK has relished the opportunity to partner with NDOR on enhancing the safety of our citizens throughout the entire state by assisting in public transit driver safety training."

— Mick Anderson
Operations Mgr., Nebr. Safety Center

The driver training program includes a mandatory 16-hour core curriculum with 8 hours each in Passenger Assistance Safety and Sensitivity (PASS) and Defensive Driving (DD) required. After completing the core curriculum, drivers are required to participate in a minimum of 4 hours of continuing education annually. One of the partners included the Nebraska Safety Center at UNK.

Route Needs Assessment Research

The Center for Public Affairs Research at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) con-

ducted a statewide intercity bus study in 2014. The objectives of the study included identifying gaps in service and developing an action plan to address intercity bus needs. The final report is located at <http://www.transportation.nebraska.gov/docs/Intercity-Bus-Assessment-2014.pdf>.

Compliance with Title VI, Civil Rights Act 1964

Direct and sub recipients of federal funding are required to ensure nondiscrimination in federally funded programs administered by State and local entities. To assist the NDOR Transit Section with compliance, NU staff developed a state guidance document and template plans for sub recipients. Valerie Lefler, UNO, and other NU staff also developed and conducted workshops for sub recipients. In 2014 a total of 110 transportation professionals attended eight Title VI workshops across the state. ♦

Collaboration in Action

Stakeholders Work Together to Purchase NDOR's New Inertial Profilers

The process of purchasing NDOR's two inertial profilers was a long and deliberate journey. The inertial profilers are vehicles that use multiple laser sensors to measure the condition of the roadway pavement surface and to "video log" the highway system. From the outset, the key stakeholders – fleet management, pavement data users, and Materials & Research (M&R) Division management – were involved with the evaluation of technology and development of the request for information (RFI).

In the fall of 2012, several vendors of profilers responded to a RFI – Fugro, Pathway Services, and Mandli Communications. All three vendors wished

to present and demonstrate their profilers. Many NDOR divisions, including Operations, Roadway Design, Planning & Project Development, Construction, Traffic, Bridge, Right-of-Way, Program Management, Business Technology Support Division (BTSD), as well as District Maintenance and Operations staff, were invited to the presentations. The goal was to identify common needs at NDOR to ensure the profilers would serve as many people as possible.

On November 28, 2012, Mandli gave a presentation of their profilers, 3D imaging and LIDAR to M&R staff, followed by a live demonstration on December 10, 2012 in front of the

Materials & Tests building, using a vehicle to be delivered to the Kansas DOT. The following day, Pathway made a similar presentation on their in-house 3D imaging system, with panoramic videos and a new web browser, then displayed their vehicle. This gave NDOR staff the opportunity to learn and experience the new technology. Two weeks later, on December 18, 2012, Fugro gave a presentation on 3D imaging, LIDAR, web browser and provided a live demonstration of their vehicle. Fugro allowed NDOR staff to ride inside the vehicle during data collection. All vendors delivered very impressive products.

(see **Profilers** on next page)

Profilers (cont'd. from page 6)

Beneficial Technology

Although the new technologies offered limitless opportunities, it was apparent that some might be outside the needs of NDOR. For this reason, we worked with engineers from Operations, Planning & Project Development, Materials & Research, and surveyors from Roadway Design to identify the technology most beneficial to NDOR. We considered LIDAR, 3D imaging systems, 360-degree mobile survey cameras, real time kinematic GPS and many other technologies. In the end, we specified the minimum requirements needed by NDOR decision-makers – allowing the vendors to respond with the most cost-effective solution for our needs. At this point, M&R also initiated a research project with UNL to evaluate this technology and to show NDOR how to use the profiler data to its fullest extent.

First, Buy America Waivers were obtained, then on January 13, 2014, we released the Invitation to Bid and in subsequent weeks responded to questions on the RFP. The final bids were opened in January 2014. Pathway, the lowest bidder, was awarded the contract in the spring of 2014.

Custom Solutions

In the ensuing six months, Pathway worked closely with NDOR staff in multiple in-person trainings and monthly web meetings to build the profilers. Custom solutions for the

operators' ergonomics were discussed and finally implemented after multiple tries. In July of 2014, a new work station with a capacity of 74 terabytes of storage was delivered to BTSD. The work station will hold three years of historic pavement data. BTSD's Information Technology (IT) staff worked alongside Pathway to install the server into the NDOR network. With fleet maintenance's assistance, two new vans with laser profilers, 3D imaging and three video cameras were delivered on September 8, 2014.

NDOR and Pathway staff collected data for the compliance testing. After passing the tests, NDOR staff received training and support on the operation of the profilers and the processing of data. Pathway customized their software to meet the specific needs of NDOR. By the end of the year, we had collected 2,200 centerline miles of roughness, rutting, faulting and 3D automated distress data on the national highway system and interstate.

Presently, UNL is assisting in developing the transition from our existing pavement data to an auto-



Photo by Jay Bailey

One of two inertial profilers delivered to NDOR in September 2014.

mated data collection system. This automated process of data collection will be safer and more economical than human visual ratings in the field. With the experts from UNL and our in-house operators, engineers and IT staff, we anticipate many good things to come and the opportunity to provide better services to our customers.

M&R staff involved with the process of purchasing the inertial profilers included Roadway Asset Management Section employees Amy Chow, IT Business Systems Analyst/Coordinator; Dave Medinger, Highway Pavement Management Coordinator; Don George, IT Business Systems Analyst; Bob Jaeger, Transportation Planner III; Dave Jochim, IT Business Systems Analyst; and Pavement Design Section employee Steve Nguyen, Engineer I. ♦



What's the BuZZ?

Get Ready, Get Set, OnBase!

Many of you are aware OnBase will be replacing Falcon at the Nebraska Department of Roads. Would you like to learn more about OnBase and how some basic functionality will be utilized?

OnBase videos can be viewed at <https://www2.dor.state.ne.us/onbasetraining/> on the following topics:

- Unity Client Tour
- Document Retrieval
- Cross References
- Custom Queries
- OnBase Folders
- Personal Page
- Modifying Keywords
- Printing Documents
- Importing and Indexing Documents
- User Options
- Document Imaging



Have you Explored the “Interchange”?



NDOR staff worked the past few months to reorganize and redesign NDOR's Intranet. The new employee-only website, called “Interchange,” launched January 5 with much success.

The website can be accessed through an icon on NDOR employee's computer desktops or by visiting <https://interchange.nebraska.gov>. See the box at right for some helpful tips.



Interchange launched with completed content for District 3, Communication, Human Resources and Operations divisions. Other divisions and districts are in the process of compiling work-related information to be posted on Interchange.

A new feature of Interchange is the “news feed” on the home page. This is where information vital to all employees will be posted, including benefits, holiday closing reminders, campaigns and much more. Each division and district will also have the option for a news feed to promote information important to their employees.

The website redesign team decided to have some fun promoting Interchange, while educating employees on

what the website has to offer. Emails have gone out weekly since the launch with updates about a “new employee” named Chupi Chupacabra and how he is learning that Interchange can help him with his job. Employees have been asked to locate specific information and receive a prize for submitting the correct answer.



Employees have said they like the “one-stop shop” for information and the ease of navigation. They've also noted how the promotion is a fun way to learn about the new website. One employee commented that having links in the “Tools” section to other websites they access to do their job is helpful. Other employees have been asking about the apparel they can order with the NDOR logo on it, with a request for additional items and sizes; stay tuned for updates to that page!

NDOR staff working on the website project include Keil Wilson, project manager; Tara Grell, webmaster; Ryan Nguyen, senior web developer; and Bradley Hicken, business tech lead; along with other members of the Communication and Business Technology Support divisions.

If you would like to request a change or addition to Interchange, email dor.web@nebraska.gov and they will review your request and contact you with any questions or concerns. ♦

Tip: If you are logged onto a computer with the NDOR network, “Interchange” will automatically log you onto the website. If you wish to access **Interchange** from your mobile device or a computer outside of NDOR's network:

1. Enter interchange.nebraska.gov into your device's web browser.
2. When prompted, enter your DOR Number (ex. DOR88888) into the User Name field. Enter your LAN password into the Password field.
3. If your device requests a domain or if the login fails, try including the domain in your User Name. Do this by entering “dordomnt1\” in front of your DOR Number (ex. Dordomnt1\DOR88888).
4. If you continue to have trouble, please see your district or division tech or contact the BTSD Help Desk at x4644 (402-479-4644).

Announcing Bentley LEARN!

As part of our commitment to enabling staff members to succeed and fostering professional growth, NDOR has a Bentley LEARN training subscription. With it, you may improve your skills, meet your development goals, and grow your career with NDOR without any additional cost!

All Bentley products are covered, including BentleyMap, Geopak, gINT, Haestad, MicroStation, and others.

Our training subscription provides you access to multiple training options for Bentley software, including:

- Live training in a virtual classroom

- On-demand self-study courses
- Complimentary registrations to a Bentley Regional LEARNing Conference

For information on getting started with LEARN, go to the Business Technology Support Division page on Interchange and look under Services/Engineering Software Support.

For questions, please contact:

Bob True at bob.true@nebraska.gov or

Mike Buckner at mike.buckner@nebraska.gov

Please secure supervisor approval prior to attending any course.

NDOR's Grossenbacher's Metal Sculptures Engage Mental Gears

By Linda Wilson
Communication Division

As the old adage goes, "Birds of a feather flock together." That notion is quickly dispelled with one look at the quirky Dodo bird, brainchild of Scott Grossenbacher, Quality Assurance Manager in NDOR's Materials and Research Division. Sculpted of miscellaneous metal parts and pieces, the audacious bird is about as far from the flock as an avian can get.

The same holds true for the plethora of other sculptures Scott has created in his home shop over the past six years, more than 60 at last count. When it comes to his art, the more offbeat and unique the better; likewise, the more he can engage his audience, the more satisfaction he gets.

Creative Process

The Dodo bird is his favorite, without question. The most time-consuming, with close to 30 hours spent on the project, Scott said it was also the most fun he's ever had with the creative process.

"I had never attempted anything that big. I found a farm logroller at a flea market in Fairbury on the July 4th weekend last year and I thought it could be a Do-dodo bird's beak. It kept evolving as I added pieces, including washers and brass bling for the body and feathers, rebar for the legs and old fence finials for the large, outstretched feet and claws. Then I added the bling and she came to life in front of me."

The bling literally makes the bird sing. At first glance, you notice the sparkling Swarovski crystal eyes staring back at you, as if to say "Look at me!" After a closer look, you see the bright, shiny brass that adorns her beak, confirming your hunch that this is indeed the "diva" of Dodo birds. But, as curiosity sets in, you are back for yet another look, examining the bling adorning her head, resembling a rocket ready to launch, made from fence wire, washers and part of a cable chuck.



Photos by Jay Bailey

Above: NDOR's Scott Grossenbacher with his Dodo bird creation.
Left: "The Bearded Lady," a mask made with recycled bicycle parts.



Shifting Gears

While recycling has always been a major emphasis in his artistic endeavors, Scott shifted gears from his bicycle business to a broader focus, called "De-Extinct," preserving the past by bringing items back from extinction. He scavenges for old items and incorporates them in his new art.

Most pieces are whimsical, reflecting a quirky sense of humor, which seems to strike a chord. After noticing people were showing some interest in his art, Scott asked Pepe's Restaurant, located in Lincoln, to hang a few pieces on the wall; not long after, people started inquiring and buying them.

Materials for Scott's artwork still include bike parts, including tanks, fenders, chain guards and rings,

(see **Sculptures** on next page)

Sculptures *(cont'd. from page 9)*

sprockets, seat-washers and horns. He has added an assortment of other parts and pieces, many found at swap meets and flea markets, including hub caps, log rollers, fence finials, shoe scratchers, wrenches, drill bits, horse bits, riveters, scissors, and Swarovski crystals.

Artwork Evolves

In addition to masks, fish and whales, Scott's other sculptures include birds, toads, a crazy rabbit (which has moving parts), penguin, ladybug, praying mantis, tribal mask, Indian headdress, starburst, crazy bikes and ships. He gives some of his creations names. For example, a couple of his masks are named Smoking Bull I and II. Another is the Bearded Lady. And there's Diva the Dodo bird.

As Scott's artwork continued to expand and evolve, he started thinking about other ways to display his work and contacted Zipline Brewery in Lincoln about including him in one of their monthly artwork displays. In March 2014 he had his first show. Prior to the show, the manager told him that nothing ever sold, and Scott jokingly responded, "Well, we're going to blow that out of the water." After selling a dozen pieces, he was asked to do another show in August, and sold about the same number. With back-to-back successful shows, Scott realized that people liked his artwork and were willing to pay for it. That was the springboard for future plans.

After displaying some of his work at the Craftacular Show at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, representatives from the Lincoln Arts Council told him they were impressed with his artwork and invited him to participate in a jurored show at SouthPointe Pavilions in September, which includes well-known artists from throughout the Midwest.

Very Satisfying

Scott has already started planning for the show. His recent move has delayed the process while he sets up a new shop, but he is forging ahead. In fact, he has some new critters in mind, using recently acquired parts and pieces.

"I am very excited about this opportunity. It's a two-way process - a chance to connect with people and you get to watch them connect with your art. When they get what you're doing, it is very satisfying."

Scott is excited about the possibilities for the future of his artwork. "As long as it is fun and people feel a connection with it, I will continue doing it. It is something I love to do." ♦

We Get Mail...

December 28, 2014

On December 23rd, I was traveling I-80 westbound with three grandkids when two got sick and threw up all over themselves at Aurora. It made a mess of their coats, themselves, and the car. I stopped to clean up best as I could at the Grand Island West rest stop. We were headed to North Platte and I didn't know what to do with three little kids, two of them a mess, one with her coat all soiled. It was about 30 degrees with a 30 mph wind and snow.

When we walked into the rest stop the maintenance guy asked if I needed help. I was about ready to cry. He helped me wash out her coat, watched the kids while I took some into the restroom to clean up, gave me a bag to use if it happened again, and gave us a coat that had been there for a month.

He was so kind. He got us going again and made it so much better. It made our day. He was a tall guy with dark hair and beard and was wearing a post-surgery boot on his left foot. I didn't get his name. He was in his mid- to late 40s.

Please give this man special recognition. He was very kind and caring—what living in Nebraska is all about.

Sincerely,

*Jerry Brown
Crete, Nebraska*

Editor's Note: The rest area attendant was Dale S. (Steve) Grothe who works for NICS which has the rest area cleaning contract with NDOR.

The Department of Roads receives numerous complimentary letters. The letters printed here are representative of those often sent praising the many fine and deserving employees of the Department of Roads.

All in the Family

Information for "All in the Family" should be sent to the Communication Division. Appropriate information will be included in future Roadrunners.

Please note: Birth announcements will be published as long as written permission is received by the Communication Division. This is necessary, as NDOR is required to adhere to privacy laws under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Births

Congratulations to Joe and Jasmine Dondlinger on the birth of their third son, Daniel Arthur, born October 21. Jasmine is Hwy. Chemical Tests Manager in Materials & Research.

Congratulations to Habib and Maria Olomi on the birth of their third daughter, Aliya Bahar, born February 8. Maria is a Chemist II in Materials & Research.

Congratulations to Rob and Kim Christian on the birth of their fourth grandchild, Scarlet Marie, born December 30. Rob is an IT Application Developer/Senior in Materials & Research.

Congratulations to Sally Larsen on the birth of her grandson, Jacob Thomas, born December 5. Sally is Staff Assistant at District 8 in Valentine.

Condolences

Condolences to Diane Harrison on the passing of her husband. Diane is an IT Applications Developer Sr. in Business Technology Support.

Condolences to Connie Boster on the passing of her mother. Connie is a Staff Assistant I in Traffic Engineering.

District 4 sends condolences to the family of Terry O'Neel, who passed away on January 15. Terry was an IT Infrastructure Support Analyst Sr., at District 4 in Grand Island.

Condolences to Carlos Campa on the death of his stepfather. Carlos is a Hwy. Maintenance Superintendent in District 6 at Lexington.

Condolences to Matt and Kim Ost on the loss of his mother-in-law. Matt is the Lead Auto Mechanic at District 8 in Ainsworth.

Condolences to Stanley and Shelly McKimmey on the loss of his mother-in-law. Stanley is a Hwy. Maintenance Worker at District 8 in Ainsworth.

Condolences to Dave Hespe on the loss of his brother. Dave is a Hwy. Maintenance Worker at District 8 in Napier.

This 'n That

Congratulations to Larry Koves on his retirement after 42 years of service. Larry was a Hwy. Quality Assurance Manager in Materials & Research.

Congratulations and happy retirement to Mike and JoAnn (Jody) Parrott. Mike was a Hwy. Designer III in Roadway Design with 45 years of service. Jody was a Transportation Planner in Materials & Research with 44 years of service.

Congratulations to Jim Wilkinson on his retirement after 24 years of state service. Jim was a Planning & Location Studies Engineer in Planning & Project Development.

Dylan Woodgate has signed to play college baseball for the Doane Tigers at Doane College in Crete. Dylan, a Senior at St. Paul High School, is the son of Jerry and Michelle Woodgate. Jerry is a Project Manager at District 4 in St. Paul.

Service Awards

Congratulations to these dedicated individuals for their work and continued service with the Department of Roads. They celebrate their service dates in *February and March 2015*.

40 Years

Michael Mosiman, Bridge
Paul Patton, District 6

20 Years

Donald Fluhart, District 4
Mary Lou Goggins, Controller
Kevin Kohmetscher, District 4
Justin Meeks, District 8
Kevin Petska, District 6

10 Years

Ronald Callan, District 4
Nathan Laska, District 3
Justin Ludemann, District 8
Roxann Miller, District 2
Robert Prince, District 4



**Toward
Zero
Deaths**

Our Top Twenty

NDOR employees with the most *total state service* as of January 30, 2015.

Name	Office	Service Date	Name	Office	Service Date
1. Ernest Voss	Roadway Design	3/22/1954	11. Randy Havranek	District 8	5/31/1968
2. Robert Fischer	Right-of-Way	5/20/1963	12. Jay Bailey	Communication	10/1/1968
3. Marvin Lech	District 2	6/15/1964	13. Stanley Karel	Matls. & Research	11/18/1968
4. Thomas Wing	Roadway Design	9/21/1964	14. Sharron Magnuson	Construction	4/21/1969
5. Robert Schmit	District 1	10/26/1964	15. Delfs Linder	Matls. & Research	5/21/1969
6. Roger McKay	District 1	4/26/1965	16. James Fry	District 2	6/1/1969
7. Thomas Rohn	Roadway Design	9/1/1965	17. Rosemarie Braun	Matls. & Research	6/1/1969
8. Gareld D. Adams	Plan. & Proj. Dev.	7/1/1966	18. Franklin Brill	Construction	6/14/1969
9. Kathleen Largent	BTSD	11/7/1966	19. David Koelzer	District 4	8/19/1969
10. Allen Vandegrift	District 1	3/2/1968	20. Gary Roost	District 3	10/9/1969

NDOR Events Calendar

— February —

- 5 Letting**
1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact Kendall Stege @ 402-479-4528
- 11 RoadToasters**
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628
- 16 State Holiday – Presidents' Day**
- 20 Bd. Public Roads Class. & Stds.**
9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium, Lincoln
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436
- 20 Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.**
10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436
- 22-28 National Engineers Week**
- 25 RoadToasters**
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628
- 26 Blood Drive – Community Blood Bank**
NDOR Central Headquarters
Contact Diane Holthus @ 402-479-4580

— March —

- 3-5 Project Managers' Conference**
Younes Conference Center, Kearney
- 10 New Employee Orientation Program**
Rm. 152, 5001 S. 14th (the "Hill")
Contact Denise Sears @ 402-479-3656
- 11 RoadToasters**
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628
- 12 Letting**
1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact Kendall Stege @ 402-479-4528
- 20 Bd. Public Roads Class & Stds.**
9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium, Lincoln
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436
- 23-27 National Work Zone Awareness Week**
www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/outreach/wz_awareness.htm

- 25 RoadToasters**
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628
- 27 Hwy. Commission Meeting/Dist. 7 Program Hearing**
8:30 a.m., City of McCook Municipal Center Training Room
505 West C St., McCook, NE
Contact Sarah Kugler @ 402-479-4871

— April —

National Distracted Driving Awareness Month

- 1-30 Great Nebraska Trash-Off**
www.nebraskatransportation.org/operations/maintenance/adopt.htm
- 3 Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.**
Meeting 8:45 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Examination 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. NDOR Auditorium
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436
- 8 RoadToasters**
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628
- 16 Letting**
1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact Kendall Stege @ 402-479-4528
- 17 Bd. Public Roads Class. & Stds.**
9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium, Lincoln
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436
- 22 Earth Day**
www.earthday.org
- 22 RoadToasters**
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628
- 24 State Holiday – Arbor Day**
- 27 Blood Drive – Community Blood Bank**
NDOR Central Headquarters
Contact Diane Holthus @ 402-479-4580

If you would like a key event included on upcoming calendars, call the Communication Office 479-4512 or e-mail linda.wilson@nebraska.gov. Information for the April/May Roadrunner should be received by March 27, 2015.

